

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/764,443

Examiner

Nicholas A. Smith

Applicant(s)

HARA, YASUO

Art Unit

1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 27 January 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/13/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

Claims 1-6 remain for examination.

Means-Plus-Function Language

Instant claims 1-6 contain the following terms written in means-plus-function format, and have been interpreted as follows:

“electric current control means” (claims 1, 3, 5 and 6) is in proper mean-plus-function format and is defined in the specification at page 10, lines 13-19 and figures 1 and 4 for example.

“electrolytic current control means” (claims 1, 3, 5 and 6) is in proper mean-plus-function format and is defined in the specification at page 11, lines 5-14 and figures 1-2 and 4-5 for example.

“germicidal treatment means” (claims 1-2 and 4-6) is in proper mean-plus-function format and is defined in the specification at page 14, lines 7-24, page 15, lines 1-11 and figures 1-2 and 4-5 for example.

“preliminary germicidal treatment means” (claim 2) is in proper mean-plus-function format and is defined in the specification at page 12, lines 19-24, page 13, lines 1-20 and figures 1-2 and 4-5 for example.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 1 is allowable over prior art, including JP07-016570 (JP'570) as disclosed in applicant's Information Disclosure Statement submitted

8/13/2004. JP'570 discloses an apparatus similar to the instant invention, in that JP'570 discloses an electrolytic ion-water production apparatus with bypass conduit, electromagnetic valves, electrolytic control means and germicidal treatment means (JP'570, fig. 2, paragraphs [0004], [0009]-[0011] and [0016]-[0022]). However, JP'570 is silent about positioning a first electromagnetic on-off valve bifurcated from a discharge conduit at an upstream of a faucet and is silent about positioning a second electromagnetic on-off valve disposed in a bypass conduit bifurcated from a tap water supply conduit at an upstream of a water purifier and connected to a tap water supply conduit at a downstream of a water purifier. JP'570 is also silent about electrolytic current control means and germicidal treatment means which are interfaced with the first and second electromagnetic on-off valves that are specifically located as claimed (instant claims, claim 1, lines 11-15). Claims 3, 5 and 6 are allowable over prior art for the same reasons as stated above in regards to claim 1 and positioning a electromagnetic on-off valve disposed in a bypass conduit bifurcated from a tap water supply conduit at an upstream of a water purifier and connected to a tap water supply conduit at a downstream of a water purifier, as well as the electrolytic current control means and germicidal treatment means interfaced therein with specifically positioned valve.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okazaki et al. (US Patent 5,944,978) pertains to an electrolyzed water apparatus and a cleaning method using hypochlorous acid.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas A. Smith whose telephone number is (571)-272-8760. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571)-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NAS

ROY KING 
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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